

### Series Aims

- To understand that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised King of God's kingdom.
- To know that Jesus came to call sinners by preaching the good news about God's kingdom.
- To know that the only appropriate response to the good news about Jesus is repentance and faith.
- To understand that speaking about Jesus and the kingdom of God often invites hostile opposition.

### Series Context

Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and is believed to be the first one written. It is fast-moving and action-packed and was probably based on the content of the Apostle Peter's teaching.

Mark himself was not an eye-witness of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, but Peter was. You can read more about Mark in Acts 12:12, 12:25, 13:5, 13:13, 15:36-39.

The Gospel was not written in strict chronological order. Instead, Mark has grouped various incidents to answer three critical questions about Jesus: Who is he? Why has he come to earth? What does it mean to follow him?

### Series Overview

This series covers Mark 1:1 to 3:6. In this first section of Mark Jesus is introduced as the Christ, the Son of God (1:1). Mark then substantiates that claim by weaving together several scenes from Jesus' life to prove that he has absolute authority over every aspect of human experience. Jesus has the authority to call people to follow him; to heal; to cast out demons; to teach, and to forgive sin – something only God can do!

As Jesus' popularity increases, so too does the opposition from the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus doesn't fit their understanding of what the promised king of God's kingdom ought to be like – he recruits the most unlikely men to be his followers and makes friends with corrupt outcasts. This opposition escalates rapidly until 3:6 when the Pharisees resolve to kill him.

### Memory Verse Ideas

**Scrambler:** Before the lesson write each word of the memory verse onto a separate piece of paper or [use pictures instead of words for very young children](#). If the verse contains more words than there are children in the class write a couple of words on each sheet of paper.

Choose a number of children to stand in a line at the front of the class and each hold one piece of paper in order. The rest of the class read the memory verse aloud together with you. When you have read through the verse a few times gather some of the pieces of paper, shuffle them together and give them back to the children at the front in a different order. The rest of the class can help you to rearrange the children in the line so that the verse reads correctly again.

If there are not enough children in the class to play this game simply place the pieces of paper on the ground instead of getting the children to hold them up.

**Separator:** Before the lesson tape or glue a number of sheets of paper together to form one long strip. Write out the memory verse as one long word without any gaps between letters.

The children can tear the paper or draw a thick line to separate the words and work out the memory verse e.g. "JesussaidIamthelightoftheworld" would become "Jesus / said / I / am / the / light / of / the / world". If you have a large group you could make two of these strips of paper and get the children to race in teams to complete the memory verse.

**Human Scrabble:** Assign a word of the memory verse to each child. If there are more words than children in your group assign more than one word to some of the children. Make sure they know their words. Get them to arrange themselves in order. Start at one end and get them to say their word(s) out loud.

After each round, get the last child to move to the first position and take ownership of the first child's word who then gets the second child's word, and so on. Repeat as time (and enthusiasm) allows.

**Popping Words:** Divide the memory verse up into words or short phrases and write these on strips of paper. Place each paper strip into a balloon and inflate the balloon. Divide the group into teams and have one set of different coloured balloons for each team. The children take turns to collect and pop a balloon from the other side of the room. They bring the strip of paper back to the group to arrange in the correct order. The first team to correctly assemble the verse and recite it out loud wins.

## Using This Resource

This programme is designed to be adaptable. It can be used for a mixed 3-11s group or more age-specific groups.

[Text in blue is generally applicable to younger children \(3-7 years\);](#) [green text is aimed at older children \(7-11 years\);](#) and black text is applicable to all age groups, at the leader's

discretion.

Leaders are encouraged to engage with the study material in a devotional manner, seeking to apply God's word to their own lives before attempting to teach others. We trust that you will be blessed as you do that. We also hope that once you have done that, your application of God's word to the children you teach will be more deliberate and relevant.

## Craft Symbols

We make use of the following symbols for the craft activities:



Apply glue here



Cut along this solid line



Cut out this shaded area



Fold outwards along this dashed line



Fold inwards along this dashed line



Staple here

## Using Toilet Rolls and Egg Boxes

Some of the craft ideas in this resource suggest the use of either cardboard toilet roll tubes or egg boxes. If you use either of these they should be cleansed by placing them in a microwave on full power for ten seconds. This reduces the risk of disease from toilet rolls and traces of salmonella from egg boxes.

## Suggested Session Outline



### Review

Review the previous lesson using the questions provided as well as any of the visual aids that were used for the previous lesson. This is helpful for children who may have missed that session.



### Introductory Idea

#### **Introduces this week's lesson.**

Pose the questions at the end of the Introductory Idea. This gives children something to look out for in the lesson and helps their concentration. These get answered later in the session.

## Teaching Plan

### **The core of the session.**



action of the Bible text is told as a story for younger children and explained. Or the Bible text is taught as a simple Bible study for older children.



#### Game Idea

**Not essential.**



Reinforces the lesson aim in a fun way and provides a way of displacing energy!

Review the questions posed in the Introductory Idea.



#### Discuss and Apply



Not to be missed!

This is where the children can be quizzed on the content and meaning of the Bible story. Questions and discussion are needed to apply this Bible story to the children's everyday lives. They should do most of the talking.



#### Prayer Idea



Use the prayer idea or just encourage each child to pray about an aspect of the lesson.



#### Activity



An opportunity to reinforce the lesson. For younger children, Activity A or B will be suitable. For older children, Activity C or D can be used to facilitate the Teaching or the Discuss and Apply section – some children prefer a lively discussion to completing written answers.



#### Memory Verse

A fun way of remembering the key verse for the series.